

a.) Remarks

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants elect for prosecution one of the inventions of:

Group I (Claims 1-13 and 15-17), drawn to immunoassay solid phase carriers containing a silicon compound on the surface thereof; or

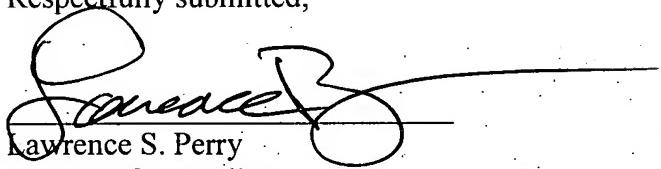
Group II (Claim 14), drawn to a solid phase for immunoassay which contains a hydrophobic material and blocking agent on the surface.

In response, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, namely Claims 1-13 and 15-17.

Entry hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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